(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRYOF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDJ): (a) and (b) Under the current Exim Policy, import of fresh garlic is restricted and can be imported only against a specific import licence. No licence/permission has been given to the Government of Karnataka for import of Fresh Garlic during the current licensing year as they have not applied for any such license.

Increase in the price of paper by major companies

1216. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the major paper producing companies *viz.,* JK and Ballarpur have increased the price of paper three-four times this year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the impact of increase in the price of paper of the text books of schools and colleges; and

(d) the steps being taken to reduce the price of paper?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) to (d) Paper Industry is a delicensed one. There is no statutory control over prices of paper which are driven by the market forces. J.K. Paper Limited and Ballarpur Industries Limited have informed that they increased the price of paper manufactured by them to certain extent during this year. Information regarding price of text book of schools and colleges is not centrally maintained in this Department.

Applications pending with DGFT

1217. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUS TRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications pending with DGFT for fixation of input/ output norms and DEPB rates;

(b) whether it is a fact that it takes more than 3/6 months before an application is cleared;

(c) the reasons for the inordinate delay in this regard; and

(d) the steps being taken to clear applications expeditiously to help exporters?